

TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR M.  
CUMMINGS II

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the extraordinary work of Arthur M. Cummings II, who has served with distinction for more than 20 years with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Cummings was appointed on January 9, 2008 as executive assistant director of the FBI's National Security branch. In that position, Mr. Cummings worked diligently to oversee the FBI's counterterrorism, counterintelligence, weapons of mass destruction and intelligence programs, as well as the Terrorist Screening Center. His outstanding work leading the FBI in the coordination and liaison with the U.S. Director of National Intelligence and the rest of the Intelligence community contributed greatly to the FBI and the entire intelligence field. Mr. Cummings brought to the job a wealth of investigative and managerial experience.

Since becoming an FBI special agent in 1987, Mr. Cummings was assigned to five field offices and to the Counterterrorism Division at FBI headquarters. He managed counterterrorism, counterintelligence, violent crimes and drug programs in several field offices, and had deployed overseas to support several major counterterrorism investigations.

Following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, Mr. Cummings played an instrumental role in the reorganization of the FBI's counterterrorism program and later served as chief of the Counterterrorism Operational Response Section, responsible for the development and oversight of FBI operations in foreign theaters such as Afghanistan. In 2003, Mr. Cummings became Chief of the International Terrorism Operations Section, responsible for developing and managing FBI strategy and operations directed against al-Qaida and its affiliated organizations and networks. Mr. Cummings also served in 2004-05 as deputy director of the National Counterterrorism Center, NCTC, a multiagency organization dedicated to eliminating the terrorist threat to U.S. interest domestically and abroad.

After his tenure at NCTC, Mr. Cummings was named special agent-in-charge of the Counterterrorism Division and Intelligence branch of the FBI's Washington field office.

In recognition of his accomplishments, Mr. Cummings was awarded the 2004 Attorney General's Award for Exceptional Service and the 2006 Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executive. Mr. Cummings is a former Navy SEAL and speaks Mandarin Chinese. He is a graduate of the University of California in San Diego.

I, along with all of my Senate colleagues, congratulate Arthur on his well-deserved retirement after such a distinguished career.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS MORRIS  
GRIFFIN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary work of Thomas Morris Griffin, Jr., during his 12 years with the U.S. Secret Service.

In his prior positions, Special Agent Griffin was assigned to train agents, handle daily operations of the First Lady Whip and protect the President of the United States. Special Agent Griffin began his law enforcement career in 1985 at the Richland County Sheriff's Office in Columbia, SC. This department of more than 300 sworn officers served a county of more than 300,000 citizens. At that agency, he served as a detective and sergeant in the Major Crimes Unit and as a team leader in the narcotic division. Special Agent Griffin also served as a Sheriff's Deputy with the uniform division, greatly enhancing the safety and security of Columbia, SC.

Special Agent Griffin received his bachelor of science in criminal justice from the University of South Carolina, received hundreds of hours of training as a special agent, and was duly recognized in 1994 with the Medal of Valor for hunting down and exchanging fire with a murderer who had shot three people, killing two of them.

Special Agent Griffin's work at the Capitol since 2007 has greatly enhanced the safety and security of United States Secret Service protectees and, ultimately, those working in and visiting the Capitol complex. He has cultivated and maintained partnerships with the United States Capitol Police, and the offices of the Senate Sergeant and Arms and House Sergeant at Arms. Through these relationships, the needs of the United States Secret Service protective missions are communicated and security plans coordinated. As he is promoted to special agent-in-charge, Special Agent Griffin leaves the United States Capitol where he has forged great partnerships as the assistant to the special agent-in-charge of the United States Secret Service Liaison Division.

I wish Special Agent Griffin all the best in his promotion and new assignment.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, as I have expressed to Senator HARKIN and to Secretary Duncan, I am concerned that the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, SAFRA, may not adequately provide for the replacement of the early college awareness, default prevention, financial literacy, and school support services that are provided by State guaranty agencies in some States. The citizens of my State rely upon the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency, PHEAA, to provide these services. Over the years, PHEAA has funded these services with the earnings they have retained from their role as a State guar-

anty agency, lender, and servicer. It is my understanding that some of these earnings will no longer be available to PHEAA or to other similar agencies across the country.

Would Senator HARKIN agree that some of the services provided by these agencies are vital and should, to the extent possible, be continued?

Mr. HARKIN. I am pleased that this bill provides significant support to continue outreach and default aversion activities through the College Access Challenge Grant Program funded at \$750 million, more than double the amount we have provided for these grants in years past. However, I agree that these activities are very important and we could do more to assist students.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, as Senator GILLIBRAND and I have expressed to Senator HARKIN, we share Senator SPECTER's concerns. The citizens of our State rely upon the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation, HESC, to provide similar services, which have also been funded with the earnings HESC has retained from their role as a State guaranty agency.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I ask does Senator HARKIN agree that the Secretary of Education has the authority to contract for these types of services?

Mr. HARKIN. I do.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. And, Mr. President, I ask if Senator SCHUMER would also agree that in our State and many other States these agencies provide valuable services to students and families?

Mr. SCHUMER. Yes, I do. That is why Senator GILLIBRAND, Senator SPECTER, and I believe it would be beneficial for the Secretary of Education to use this authority for State guaranty agencies that provide valuable services.

FIRE GRANTS REAUTHORIZATION  
ACT OF 2010

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, yesterday Senators DODD, COLLINS, CARPER, MCCAIN, and I introduced the Fire Grants Reauthorization Act of 2010.

The bill we presented to the Senate is a bipartisan piece of legislation that provides support to our Nation's firefighters and emergency medical service responders. It reauthorizes the Assistance to Firefighters, AFG, program and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response program, SAFER—two highly successful programs I worked to establish in 2000 and 2003, respectively.

I think we are all aware of the great sacrifices first responders make for us. Since September 11 and the Hurricane Katrina catastrophe, firefighters in communities large and small have assumed a greater role in overall national emergency preparedness. They are now the frontline of defense in most communities for disasters of all